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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2013-102

# Abamectin

*(publié aussi en français)*

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has concluded that the addition of new uses on crops included in the Bulb Onion Subgroup (Crop Subgroup 3-07A) to the product label of Agri-Mek® 1.9% EC Insecticide/Miticide, containing technical grade abamectin, is acceptable. The specific uses approved in Canada are detailed on the label of Agri-Mek® 1.9% EC Insecticide/Miticide, *Pest Control Products Act* Registration Number 24551.

The evaluation of this abamectin application indicated that the end-use product has merit and value, and the human health and environmental risks associated with the new uses are acceptable.

Before registering a pesticide for food use in Canada, the PMRA must determine the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the food when the pesticide is used according to label directions and that such residues will not be a concern to human health. This quantity is then legally established as a maximum residue limit (MRL). An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Consultation on the proposed MRLs for abamectin is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document). A summary of the field trial data used to support the proposed MRLs can be found in Appendix I.

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRLs is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRLs, to be added to the MRLs already established for abamectin, are as follows.

**Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limits for Abamectin**

| Common Name | Residue Definition | MRL (ppm) | Food Commodity |
|---|---|---|---|
| Abamectin | avermectin B1 (a mixture of avermectins containing greater than or equal to 80% avermectin B1a (5-O-demethyl avermectin A1a) and less than or equal to 20% avermectin B1b (5-O-demethyl-25-de(1-methylpropyl)-25-(1-methylethyl) avermectin A1a) and its delta-8,9-isomer) | 0.01 | Bulb Onion Subgroup (Crop Subgroup 3-07A) |

ppm = parts per million

MRLs are proposed for each commodity included in the listed crop groupings in accordance with the Residue Chemistry Crop Groups webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

MRLs established in Canada may be found using the Maximum Residue Limit Database on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage. The database allows users to search for established MRLs, regulated under the *Pest Control Products Act*, both for pesticides or for food commodities.

**International Situation and Trade Implications**

The MRLs proposed for abamectin in Canada are the same as corresponding American tolerances as listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide. Currently, there are no Codex MRLs[1] listed for abamectin in or on any bulb onion commodity on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food webpage.

**Next Steps**

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRLs for abamectin up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRLs. Comments received will be addressed in a separate document linked to this PMRL. The established MRLs will be legally in effect as of the date that they are entered into the Maximum Residue Limit Database.

[1] The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.

# Appendix I

## Summary of Field Trial Data Used to Support the Proposed MRLs

Residue data from field trials conducted in the United States were submitted to support the domestic use of Agri-Mek® 1.9% EC Insecticide/Miticide on crops included in the Bulb Onion Subgroup. Abamectin was applied to dry bulb onions, which were harvested according to label directions.

### Maximum Residue Limits

The recommendation for a maximum residue limit (MRL) for abamectin in/on crops in the bulb onion subgroup was based upon the field trial data and guidance provided in PRO2005-04, *Guidance for Setting Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits Based on Field Trial Data*. Table A1 summarizes the residue data used to calculate the proposed MRLs for crops in the Bulb Onion Subgroup.

**TABLE A1 Summary of Field Trial Data Used to Support Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)**

| Commodity | Application Method/ Total Application Rate (g a.i./ha) | PHI (days) | Residues (ppm) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Min | Max |
| Dry bulb onions | Foliar application/ 63.6 – 67.0 | 29-31 | <0.004 | <0.005 |

PHI = preharvest interval; ppm = parts per million

Following the review of all available data, an MRL of 0.01 ppm is recommended to cover residues of abamectin. Residues of abamectin in bulb onion commodities at the proposed MRLs will not pose an unacceptable risk to any segment of the population, including infants, children, adults and seniors.